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ABSTRACT

This study determines the typical time lapse from matriculation to graduation for recent bachelor's degree graduates, and observes trends and variations in the matriculation-to-graduation period for graduates of different majors and years. Basic data were compiled for all University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point graduates of 1969, 1970, and 1971. Data are arranged to indicate distribution by major, date of entrance, and month of graduation. The period from matriculation to graduation is presented for regular as well as transfer students. (Author/MJM)

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Period from Matriculation
to Graduation
Regular Students
Transfer Students
Bachelor's
Graduates of
1969, 1970, 1971
Distribution by
Major
Date of Entrance
Month of Graduation

HOW LONG IN THE MILL?

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PURPOSE

It is often assumed that normal college study requires eight semesters or equivalent. Some educators advocate squeezing college study into three years rather than four or more. On the surface it appears that most students actually require more than eight semesters to complete work for a degree. Such information is obviously not readily available, since obtaining it requires data organization of an unusual type.

The purpose of this study is to determine the typical time lapse from matriculation to graduation for recent bachelor's degree graduates, and to observe trends and variations in the matriculation-to-graduation period for graduates of different majors and years. The study is made on the assumption that such facts will contribute to better advising and counseling of students. It may help to distinguish between the needs of part time and full time students. It should verify or disprove the assumption that eight semesters represents a typical college study period.

SAMPLING

The most recent graduates of University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point were chosen for study. Basic data were compiled for all graduates of 1969, 1970, and 1971 from University records. These graduates represent three complete subpopulations from which one might generalize for all recent graduates of similar types of institutions.

The transfer students have been distinguished from those who began and completed their work at Stevens Point for the obvious reason that the two groups are not likely to be comparable. An attempt has been made to determine to what extent the length of tenure of students is related to the academic major.

1969 GRADUATES

Complete records were found for 856 bachelor's degree graduates of UW-SP in 1969. This is a total count of such graduates. Of this number, 505 are listed as regular students who first started at Stevens Point, and 351 are listed as transfer students who first entered another institution and then transferred to Stevens Point, or transferred out of and into Stevens Point. Table 1 was compiled in order to compare the school tenures of regular and transfer students. The "credit hour" of instruction is used in this and similar tables to compare these mean credit hour tenures on the basis of department majors. For quantification purposes a semester is considered to be 16 credit hours (referred to as "hours"), an eight week summer session is considered 8 hours, and a single course, as in correspondence study, is arbitrarily considered 3 hours. A "year" of work is defined as two semesters; thus the number of years can be determined by dividing total hours by 32.

Table 1 shows the number of graduates for each major, and the mean hours of instruction for graduates with each major, both for regular and transfer students. In all cases the first major only is considered in categorization. The mean hours of instruction for all regular student graduates is 141.71 - slightly short of the 144 hours that would constitute nine semesters of study. The overall mean for transfers is 168.79 hours, or slightly more than ten semesters and one summer session. Mean hours of instruction by major for regular students ranged from 132.44 for music majors to 160.00 hours for two philosophy majors. Majors in physics, wildlife, chemistry, home economics, American Civilization, French, German, Spanish, and speech pathology and audiology (now communicative disorders) had spent noticeably less time in school than had majors in speech & drama, general science, art, social science, political science, biology, and certain others, among regular students.

Among transfers means ranged from 138.67 hours for three business education graduates to 182.23 hours for elementary education graduates and 206.67 hours for art graduates. Only among physical education graduates did the length of time spent in college average less for transfers than for regular students.

Included in the table are the standard errors (SE). It should be kept in mind that the SE's are often a function of the number of cases, rather than of dispersion only. An interesting phenomenon is seen in a larger standard error for all elementary education majors than for either regulars or transfers. This is explained by the bimodal distribution of the combined groups; the means for regular students and transfers are about 40 points apart. Transfer students averaged about two and one-half more semesters in school than did regular students among elementary education majors.

TABLE 1

MEAN NUMBER OF HOURS INSTRUCTION, 1969 BACCALAUREATE GRADUATES BY DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENT	REGULAR STUDENTS			TRANSFER STUDENTS			ALL STUDENTS		
	N	MEAN HOURS	S. E.	N	MEAN HOURS	S. E.	N	MEAN HOURS	S. E.
AMER. CIVILIZATION	2	136.00	8.00	3	166.33	13.37	5	154.20	9.84
ART	13	150.15	3.96	6	206.67	18.98	19	168.00	8.78
BIOLOGY	40	145.80	3.42	26	158.62	3.15	66	150.85	2.04
BUS. ADMINISTRATION	38	142.11	2.60	12	157.58	7.61	50	145.82	2.76
BUS. EDUCATION	4	136.00	2.77	3	138.67	5.33	7	137.14	4.39
CHEMISTRY	7	134.86	5.66	1	152.00		8	137.00	4.43
ECONOMICS	17	148.24	21.91	12	169.58	7.24	29	157.07	4.85
ELEM. EDUCATION	67	142.81	3.05	116	182.23	4.66	183	167.80	4.73
ENGLISH	31	141.42	2.18	17	164.41	7.19	48	149.56	3.28
FORESTRY	8	141.00	2.20	8	148.00	6.59	16	144.50	3.83
FRENCH	2	136.00					2	136.00	
GENERAL SCIENCE	3	152.00	8.00	4	164.75	7.39	7	159.29	7.00
GEOGRAPHY	19	140.63	3.22	5	162.20	19.12	24	145.12	4.06
GERMAN	2	136.00		1	160.00		3	144.00	8.00
HISTORY	44	140.36	2.07	16	167.50	7.57	60	147.60	2.95
HOME ECONOMICS	39	134.85	1.48	16	151.00	4.37	55	139.55	1.91
MATHEMATICS	40	139.80	1.94	14	165.36	11.92	54	146.43	3.67
MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY				9	151.44	8.85	9	151.44	8.85
MUSIC	9	132.44	2.70	3	168.00	12.22	12	141.33	5.69
PHILOSOPHY	2	160.00	16.00	1	168.00		3	162.67	9.62
PHYSICAL EDUC.	6	145.33	7.84	4	142.00	11.49	10	144.00	6.20
PHYSICS	3	133.33	5.33				3	133.33	5.33
POLITICAL SCIENCE	9	145.78	4.38	10	157.60	8.60	19	152.00	5.04
PSYCHOLOGY	13	142.77	4.23	11	158.82	8.03	24	150.12	4.55
RESOURCE MGM'T	33	143.03	2.20	18	170.89	5.41	51	152.86	3.01
SOCIAL SCIENCE	13	145.85	3.97	7	168.00	9.56	20	153.60	4.74
SOCIOLOGY	13	140.92	2.65	11	167.09	9.32	24	152.92	5.21
SPANISH	2	136.00		3	149.33	5.33	5	144.00	4.38
SPEECH & DRAMA	7	154.29	6.70	4	162.00	3.83	11	157.09	4.48
SPEECH PATH. & AUD.	12	136.00	1.97	7	159.29	7.72	19	144.58	3.98
WILDLIFE	7	133.71	2.29	3	168.00	24.44	10	144.00	8.35
TOTALS	505	141.71	2.70	351	168.79	2.06	856	152.82	1.06

Tables 2, 3, and 4 were designed to show the proportion of graduates who finished in four years, four years and a summer session, etc., by department or major. Table 2 includes regular students and Table 3 includes transfer students, while Table 4 includes all graduates. From Table 2 it can be seen that 19 regular home economics graduates (48.7%) completed their study in four years, while another 23.1% required four years and a summer session. The category "other" includes longer or shorter periods than the three specific periods named in the table. In almost every case "other" refers to a period greater than four years and a semester. Among regular students, one apparently finished in only three years, while a half dozen others finished their work in seven semesters and one summer session. Since 25.4% of all regular students completed their work in just four years, about 74% required more than four years.

The transfer students, included in Table 3, present a vastly different distribution. The "other" category is predominant for majors in biology, business education, economics, English, history, political science, resource management, sociology, social science, speech & drama, elementary education, and perhaps some other majors. Only 6.3% of these graduates completed their work in just four years, while about 82% required nine semesters or more.

From Table 4 we can see that for all graduates the modal category is "other", i.e., largely more than nine semesters. Another 23.1% of all graduates completed their study in four years (eight semesters) plus one summer session.

TABLE 2

NUMBER AND PER CENT OF YEARS INSTRUCTION FOR 1969 BACCALAUREATE GRADUATES BY MAJOR DEPARTMENT

REGULAR STUDENTS

DEPARTMENT	4 YEARS		4 YEARS + 1 SUMMER SES.		4 YEARS + 1 SEMESTER		OTHER		TOTAL	
	NUMBER	PER CENT	NUMBER	PER CENT	NUMBER	PER CENT	NUMBER	PER CENT	NUMBER	PER CENT
AMER. CIV.	1	50.0					1	50.0	2	100.0
ART			5	38.5			8	61.5	13	100.0
BIOLOGY	7	17.5	8	20.0	11	27.5	14	35.0	40	100.0
BUS. ADMIN.	12	31.6	9	23.7	7	18.4	10	26.3	38	100.0
BUS. EDUC.	2	50.0	1	25.0			1	25.0	4	100.0
CHEMISTRY	4	57.1	2	28.6			1	14.3	7	100.0
ECONOMICS	3	17.7	5	29.4	4	23.5	5	29.4	17	100.0
ELEM. ED.	16	23.9	23	34.3	9	13.4	19	28.4	67	100.0
ENGLISH	8	25.8	9	29.0	6	19.4	8	25.8	31	100.0
FORESTRY			6	75.0	1	12.5	1	12.5	8	100.0
FRENCH			2	100.0					2	100.0
GEN. SCIENCE			1	33.3			2	66.7	3	100.0
GEOGRAPHY	3	15.8	8	42.1	5	26.3	3	15.8	19	100.0
GERMAN			2	100.0					2	100.0
HISTORY	14	31.8	12	27.3	10	22.7	8	18.2	44	100.0
HOME ECON.	19	48.7	9	23.1	6	15.4	5	12.8	39	100.0
MATHEMATICS	16	40.0	6	15.0	9	22.5	9	22.5	40	100.0
MED. TECH.										
MUSIC	4	44.5	2	22.2	2	22.2	1	11.1	9	100.0
PHILOSOPHY					1	50.0	1	50.0	2	100.0
PHY. EDUC.	2	33.3	1	16.7	1	16.7	2	33.3	6	100.0
PHYSICS	2	66.7			1	33.3			3	100.0
POL. SCIENCE	2	22.2	1	11.1	2	22.2	4	44.5	9	100.0
PSYCHOLOGY	4	30.8	3	23.0	2	15.4	4	30.8	13	100.0
RES. MGM'T			23	69.7	2	6.1	8	24.2	33	100.0
SOC. SCIENCE	4	30.8			3	23.1	6	46.1	13	100.0
SOCIOLOGY	2	15.4	5	38.4	3	23.1	3	23.1	13	100.0
SPANISH			2	100.0					2	100.0
SPEECH & DRAMA			2	28.6	1	14.3	4	57.1	7	100.0
SPEECH PATH. & AUDIOLOGY	3	25.0	7	58.4	1	8.3	1	8.3	12	100.0
WILDLIFE			6	85.7			1	14.3	7	100.0
TOTALS	128	25.4	160	31.7	87	17.2	130	25.7	505	100.0

TABLE 3
NUMBER AND PER CENT OF YEARS INSTRUCTION FOR 1969 BACCALAUREATE GRADUATES BY MAJOR DEPARTMENT

TRANSFER STUDENTS

DEPARTMENT	4 YEARS		4 YEARS + 1 SUMMER SES.		4 YEARS + 1 SEMESTER		OTHER		TOTAL	
	NUMBER	PER CENT	NUMBER	PER CENT	NUMBER	PER CENT	NUMBER	PER CENT	NUMBER	PER CENT
AMER. CIV.							3	100.0	3	100.0
ART							6	100.0	6	100.0
BIOLOGY			1	3.9	6	23.1	19	73.0	26	100.0
BUS. ADMIN.	2	16.7	1	8.3	2	16.7	7	58.3	12	100.0
BUS. EDUC.	1	33.3			1	33.3	1	33.4	3	100.0
CHEMISTRY							1	100.0	1	100.0
ECONOMICS	1	8.3			1	8.3	10	83.4	12	100.0
ELEM. ED.	7	6.0	12	10.4	10	8.6	87	75.0	116	100.0
ENGLISH	1	5.9	3	17.7	3	17.7	10	58.7	17	100.0
FORESTRY			3	37.5			5	62.5	8	100.0
FRENCH										
GEN. SCIENCE							4	100.0	4	100.0
GEOGRAPHY	1	20.0	1	20.0	1	20.0	2	40.0	5	100.0
GERMAN							1	100.0	1	100.0
HISTORY			1	6.3	3	18.7	12	75.0	16	100.0
HOME ECON.	1	6.2	3	18.8	3	18.8	9	56.2	16	100.0
MATHEMATICS	2	14.3	2	14.3	4	28.6	6	42.8	14	100.0
MED. TECH.	3	33.3	2	22.2			4	44.5	9	100.0
MUSIC							3	100.0	3	100.0
PHILOSOPHY							1	100.0	1	100.0
PHY. EDUC.	2	50.0	1	25.0			1	25.0	4	100.0
PHYSICS										
POL. SCIENCE	1	10.0	1	10.0	1	10.0	7	70.0	10	100.0
PSYCHOLOGY			3	27.3	3	27.3	5	45.4	11	100.0
RES. MGM'T			2	11.1	1	5.6	15	83.3	18	100.0
SOC. SCIENCE			1	14.3	1	14.3	5	71.4	7	100.0
SOCIOLOGY					3	27.3	8	72.7	11	100.0
SPANISH					2	66.7	1	33.3	3	100.0
SPEECH & DRAMA							4	100.0	4	100.0
SPEECH PATH. & AUDIOLOGY					3	42.9	4	57.1	7	100.0
WILDLIFE			1	33.3			2	66.7	3	100.0
TOTALS	22	6.3	38	10.8	48	13.7	243	69.2	351	100.0

TABLE 4

NUMBER AND PER CENT OF YEARS INSTRUCTION FOR 1969 BACCALAUREATE GRADUATES BY MAJOR DEPARTMENT

TOTAL STUDENTS

DEPARTMENT	4 YEARS		4 YEARS + 1 SUMMER SES.		4 YEARS + 1 SEMESTER		OTHER		TOTAL	
	NUMBER	PER CENT	NUMBER	PER CENT	NUMBER	PER CENT	NUMBER	PER CENT	NUMBER	PER CENT
AMER. CIV.	1	20.0					4	80.0	5	100.0
ART			5	26.3			14	73.7	19	100.0
BIOLOGY	7	10.6	9	13.6	17	25.8	33	50.0	66	100.0
BUS. ADMIN.	14	28.0	10	20.0	9	18.0	17	34.0	50	100.0
BUS. EDUC.	3	42.8	1	14.3	1	14.3	2	28.6	7	100.0
CHEMISTRY	4	50.0	2	25.0			2	25.0	8	100.0
ECONOMICS	4	13.8	5	17.2	5	17.2	15	51.8	29	100.0
ELEM. ED.	23	12.6	35	19.1	19	10.4	106	57.9	183	100.0
ENGLISH	9	18.8	12	25.0	9	18.8	18	37.4	48	100.0
FORESTRY			9	56.3	1	6.2	6	37.5	16	100.0
FRENCH			2	100.0					2	100.0
GEN. SCIENCE			1	14.3			6	85.7	7	100.0
GEOGRAPHY	4	16.7	9	37.5	6	25.0	5	20.8	24	100.0
GERMAN			2	66.7			1	33.3	3	100.0
HISTORY	14	23.3	13	21.7	13	21.7	20	33.3	60	100.0
HOME ECON.	20	36.4	12	21.8	9	16.4	14	25.4	55	100.0
MATHEMATICS	18	33.3	8	14.8	13	24.1	15	27.8	54	100.0
MED. TECH.	3	33.3	2	22.2			4	44.5	9	100.0
MUSIC	4	33.3	2	16.7	2	16.7	4	33.3	12	100.0
PHILOSOPHY					1	33.3	2	66.7	3	100.0
PHY. EDUC.	4	40.0	2	20.0	1	10.0	3	30.0	10	100.0
PHYSICS	2	66.7			1	33.3			3	100.0
POL. SCIENCE	3	15.8	2	10.5	3	15.8	11	57.9	19	100.0
PSYCHOLOGY	4	16.7	6	25.0	5	20.8	9	37.5	24	100.0
RES. MGM'T			25	49.0	3	5.9	23	45.1	51	100.0
SOC. SCIENCE	4	20.0	1	5.0	4	20.0	11	55.0	20	100.0
SOCIOLOGY	2	8.3	5	20.9	6	25.0	11	45.8	24	100.0
SPANISH			2	40.0	2	40.0	1	20.0	5	100.0
SPEECH & DRAMA			2	18.2	1	9.1	8	72.7	11	100.0
SPEECH PATH. & AUDIOLOGY	3	15.8	7	36.8	4	21.1	5	26.3	19	100.0
WILDLIFE			7	70.0			3	30.0	10	100.0
TOTALS	150	17.5	198	23.1	135	15.8	373	43.6	856	100.0

Another way of analyzing data concerning student tenure in college is to note the time of first entry and then to calculate the time lapse from matriculation to graduation. Table 5 shows time of entrance and month of graduation for 1969 graduates who were regular students. Table 6 shows the same information for transfers to Stevens Point who graduated in 1969. Among regular students, the earliest entrance was in 1933. Two students entered in January, 1966, and still completed their study in 1969. However, 327 of the 505 "regular" graduates, or 64.8%, entered in 1965. The "mean number of years in the mill" was computed by subtracting the year of entrance for each student from 1969 to provide a rough measure of student tenure. By this method of computation it was found that regular graduates had an average tenure of 4.89 years.

Graduates who had transferred to Stevens Point had averaged much longer in school. As shown in Table 6, one had entered in 1923 - some 46 years before graduation. In this group also there were two students who entered as late as 1966. There were more who had entered in 1964 than in 1965. The 95 entrants in 1965 constituted only 27.1% of the total. The "mean number of years in the mill" for transfers was computed to be 7.60. When all regular and transfer students were combined, the mean years in school was computed to be 6.00.

Most graduates had entered school in the fall. However, in recent years a number had first entered school in January, and some had matriculated for the summer session.

Among regular students, 61.0% were awarded degrees in June compared to only 40.7% of the transfers. Although 30.2% of the transfers received degrees in January at the end of the first semester, the proportion was only 22.2% for regular students. Thus it is observed that graduates who had transferred to Stevens Point received degrees in proportions fairly well divided among the January, June, and August Commencements, while most graduates who had matriculated at Stevens Point received degrees in June.

TABLE 5

PERIOD FROM MATRICULATION TO GRADUATION
1969 GRADUATES: REGULAR STUDENTS

DATE ENTERED MONTH JAN-FEB	JUNE	SEPT-AUG	OTHER	YEAR	MONTH OF GRADUATION JANUARY	JUNE	AUGUST	ROW TOTALS	YEAR TOTALS
		X		1933			1	1	1
		X		1937	1			1	1
		X		1940			1	1	1
	X			1944			1	1	1
		X		1945			1	1	1
		X		1948		1		1	1
		X		1949			1	1	1
	X			1950			1	1	1
		X		1956		1		1	1
		X		1957	1			1	1
		X		1958			2	2	3
	X						1	1	
		X		1959	2			2	2
		X		1960	2	3		5	5
X				1961		1		1	6
	X					1		1	
		X			2		2	4	
X				1962	2			2	8
	X						1	1	
		X			2	3		5	
		X		1963	5	4	2	11	11
X				1964	3			3	131
	X				1	2	1	4	
		X			72	47	5	124	
X				1965	5	6		11	327
	X				2	4	1	7	
		X			11	235	63	309	
X				1966	1			1	2
		X					1	1	
TOTALS					112	308	85	505	505

Mean Years From Matriculation To Graduation: 4.89

TABLE 6
PERIOD FROM MATRICULATION TO GRADUATION
1969 GRADUATES: TRANSFER STUDENTS

DATE ENTERED MONTH JAN-FEB	JUNE	SEPT-AUG	OTHER	YEAR	MONTH OF GRADUATION JANUARY	JUNE	AUGUST	ROW TOTALS	YEAR TOTALS
		X		1923		1		1	1
		X		1925			1	1	1
		X		1927	1			1	1
		X		1931			1	1	1
		X		1934			1	1	1
		X		1935	1			1	1
		X		1937		1	1	2	2
		X		1938			1	1	1
		X		1940	1			1	1
		X		1941	1		1	2	2
		X		1943		1		1	1
		X		1944		1	1	2	2
		X		1945		1	1	2	2
		X		1946			2	2	2
		X		1947	1			1	1
		X		1948		1	1	2	2
		X		1950	1	1	1	3	3
		X		1951		1		1	1
		X		1952			2	2	2
		X		1953			1	1	1
X				1954	1		1	2	3
		X					1	1	
X				1955	1			1	3
		X				1	1	2	
		X		1956	1		1	2	2
			4	1957		1		1	7
		X			1	1	4	6	
		X		1958		2	1	3	3
		X		1959	3	6	3	12	12
	X			1960	1		1	2	9
		X			5	1	1	7	
X				1961	1	2		3	18
		X			6	4	5	15	
	X			1962	1			1	22
		X			7	4	10	21	
			7	1963			1	1	44
	X					2		2	
X					3	1		4	
		X			9	12	16	37	
X				1964	4	2		6	102
		X			46	35	11	92	
	X				1	3		4	
X				1965	1	3	3	7	95
	X				2	4	3	9	
		X			5	51	23	79	
	X			1966	1			1	2
		X					1	1	
TOTALS					106	143	102	351	351

Mean Years From Matriculation To Graduation: 7.60

1970 GRADUATES

Complete records were found for 616 regular students and 424 transfer students who received their baccalaureate degrees at Stevens Point in 1970. Table 7 shows the distribution of regular and transfer graduates by first major, and gives the mean credit hours of instruction for each major, together with the standard error in each distribution. The mean number of credit hours for regular students was 142.81 or nearly the equivalent of nine semesters. For transfer students the mean was 169.59 or more than ten semesters and a summer session. The fact that the SE for regular students was 0.64 and for transfer students it was 1.96 demonstrates the fact that there was much more spread in the transfer student data, even when the larger N of regular students is accounted for. For all students combined, the mean was 153.73 and the SE was 0.97. Only Spanish and speech & drama had means for transfer students that were less than or equal those for regular students. For all other majors the transfer graduates had attended school "longer" than regular students.

Regular students averaged greatest for psychology, elementary education, art, physical education, general science, biology, and economics graduates. Home economics, business education, and business administration graduates averaged least among departments having numerous graduates. Among transfer graduates, the highest averages were: 187.47 for elementary education, 175.62 for resource management, 170.80 for economics, and 168.80 for psychology among departments with significant N's. Political science graduates averaged 146.67 and speech pathology & audiology graduates averaged 146.40 to be among the lowest.

TABLE 7

MEAN NUMBER OF HOURS INSTRUCTION, 1970 BACCALAUREATE GRADUATES
BY DEPARTMENT

	REGULAR STUDENTS			TRANSFER STUDENTS			ALL STUDENTS		
DEPARTMENT	N	MEAN HOURS	S. E.	N	MEAN HOURS	S. E.	N	MEAN HOURS	S. E.
AMER. CIVILIZATION	1	160.00					1	160.00	
ART	16	149.50	5.30	11	157.73	4.85	27	152.85	3.73
BIOLOGY	64	148.00	1.73	30	159.57	3.45	94	151.69	1.70
BUS. ADMINISTRATION	38	136.63	2.20	14	152.00	5.24	52	140.77	2.32
BUS. EDUCATION	13	135.39	2.93	4	160.00	19.87	17	141.18	5.40
CHEMISTRY	4	138.00	5.03	2	200.00	8.00	6	158.67	13.61
ECONOMICS	21	147.05	3.24	10	170.80	11.69	31	154.71	4.70
ELEM. EDUCATION	74	146.70	2.95	145	187.47	4.45	219	173.69	3.37
ENGLISH	28	142.00	1.73	23	155.61	5.83	51	148.14	2.92
FORESTRY	14	144.00	2.91	8	167.38	11.91	22	152.50	5.15
FRENCH	1	128.00		5	160.60	4.94	6	155.17	6.76
GENERAL SCIENCE	6	149.33	4.92	3	221.33	25.44	9	173.33	14.42
GEOGRAPHY	20	141.20	2.03	6	158.67	12.47	26	145.23	3.43
GERMAN	5	142.40	6.88	3	144.00	4.62	8	143.00	4.39
HISTORY	40	141.40	1.50	14	158.00	4.41	54	145.70	1.86
HOME ECONOMICS	37	137.08	2.11	17	155.24	4.80	54	142.80	2.37
MATHEMATICS	35	138.06	1.75	7	152.00	8.19	42	140.38	2.10
MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY	2	112.00	16.00	4	140.00	8.33	6	130.67	8.92
MUSIC	17	142.59	3.77	4	151.00	12.90	21	144.19	3.81
PHILOSOPHY	2	124.00	20.00	2	164.00	4.00	4	144.00	14.24
PHYSICAL EDUC.	10	147.20	3.99	3	152.00	4.62	13	148.31	3.22
PHYSICS	2	144.00		2	168.00	24.00	4	156.00	12.00
POLITICAL SCIENCE	23	138.44	2.59	6	146.67	4.92	29	140.14	2.34
PSYCHOLOGY	22	150.55	4.93	20	168.80	8.88	42	159.24	5.09
RESOURCE MGM'T	31	143.23	2.27	21	175.62	6.87	52	156.31	3.77
SOCIAL SCIENCE	15	143.47	3.94	8	157.50	8.52	23	148.35	4.06
SOCIOLOGY	31	141.16	2.30	24	165.63	5.81	55	151.84	3.27
SPANISH	1	144.00		2	144.00		3	144.00	
SPEECH & DRAMA	9	152.89	6.46	9	152.44	3.56	18	152.67	3.58
SPEECH PATH. & AUD.	23	139.48	2.66	10	146.40	4.63	33	141.58	2.35
WILDLIFE	11	139.64	2.50	7	150.86	13.57	18	144.00	5.41
TOTALS	616	142.81	0.64	424	169.59	1.96	1040	153.73	0.97

The distributions of graduates by instruction period category are shown in Tables 8, 9, and 10. Table 8 refers to regular graduates, Table 9 to transfer graduates, and Table 10 to all graduates combined. It is immediately apparent from Table 8 that for graduates in home economics, business administration, and mathematics, the modal tenure was four years. The mode for business education, English, resource management, and wildlife graduates was four years and a summer session. The mode for biology, geography, and music graduates was four years and one semester. Speech & drama, economics, and psychology graduates are examples of departments for which graduates other than the above categories represent the mode.

Table 9 readily reveals that the "other" category (almost entirely including categories of more than nine semesters) is predominant for most departments among transfer graduates. There are almost no exceptions to this rule. More than 70 per cent of the transfer elementary education graduates required more than nine semesters of study. The "other" category included 67.7% of all transfer graduates compared to only 28.1% of all regular graduates.

When the regular and transfer graduates are combined as in Table 10, the "other" category is still modal with 44.2% of the total. If we omit majors having total N's of fewer than 10, we may generalize that majors in speech & drama, elementary education, forestry, and economics take the longest, on the average, to complete their degree work on the basis of the distributions of Table 10. At the opposite end of the distribution are such majors as mathematics, business education, speech pathology & audiology, and home economics.

TABLE 8
NUMBER AND PER CENT OF YEARS INSTRUCTION FOR 1970 BACCALAUREATE GRADUATES BY MAJOR DEPARTMENT

REGULAR STUDENTS

DEPARTMENT	4 YEARS		4 YEARS + 1 SUMMER SES.		4 YEARS + 1 SEMESTER		OTHER		TOTAL	
	NUMBER	PER CENT	NUMBER	PER CENT	NUMBER	PER CENT	NUMBER	PER CENT	NUMBER	PER CENT
AMER. CIV.							1	100.0	1	100.0
ART	2	12.5	5	31.2	3	18.8	6	37.5	16	100.0
BIOLOGY	8	12.5	6	9.4	27	42.2	23	35.9	64	100.0
BUS. ADMIN.	16	42.1	11	28.9	6	15.8	5	13.2	38	100.0
BUS. EDUC.	5	38.5	7	53.8			1	7.7	13	100.0
CHEMISTRY	1	25.0	2	50.0			1	25.0	4	100.0
ECONOMICS	6	28.6			5	23.8	10	47.6	21	100.0
ELEM. ED.	18	24.3	26	35.1	7	9.5	23	31.1	74	100.0
ENGLISH	2	7.1	13	46.4	6	21.5	7	25.0	28	100.0
FORESTRY			8	57.1	1	7.2	5	35.7	14	100.0
FRENCH	1	100.0							1	100.0
GEN. SCIENCE	1	16.7			1	16.7	4	66.6	6	100.0
GEOGRAPHY	4	20.0	4	20.0	8	40.0	4	20.0	20	100.0
GERMAN			1	20.0	1	20.0	3	60.0	5	100.0
HISTORY	6	15.0	15	37.5	8	20.0	11	27.5	40	100.0
HOME ECON.	16	43.3	12	32.4	5	13.5	4	10.8	37	100.0
MATHEMATICS	14	40.0	6	17.1	10	28.6	5	14.3	35	100.0
MED. TECH.	1	50.0					1	50.0	2	100.0
MUSIC	4	23.5	4	23.5	7	41.2	2	11.8	17	100.0
PHILOSOPHY					1	50.0	1	50.0	2	100.0
PHY. EDUC.	2	20.0			3	30.0	5	50.0	10	100.0
PHYSICS					2	100.0			2	100.0
POL. SCIENCE	6	26.1	8	34.8	3	13.0	6	26.1	23	100.0
PSYCHOLOGY	4	18.2	4	18.2	5	22.7	9	40.9	22	100.0
RES. MGM'T			21	67.7	2	6.5	8	25.8	31	100.0
SOC. SCIENCE	4	26.7	4	26.7	2	13.3	5	33.3	15	100.0
SOCIOLOGY	10	32.2	6	19.4	6	19.4	9	29.0	31	100.0
SPANISH					1	100.0			1	100.0
SPEECH & DRAMA			2	22.2			7	77.8	9	100.0
SPEECH PATH. & AUDIOLOGY	9	39.2	5	21.7	4	17.4	5	21.7	23	100.0
WILDLIFE			9	81.8			2	18.2	11	100.0
TOTALS	140	22.7	179	29.1	124	20.1	173	28.1	616	100.0

TABLE 9
NUMBER AND PER CENT OF YEARS INSTRUCTION FOR 1970 BACCALAUREATE GRADUATES BY MAJOR DEPARTMENT

TRANSFER STUDENTS

DEPARTMENT	4 YEARS		4 YEARS + 1 SUMMER SES.		4 YEARS + 1 SEMESTER		OTHER		TOTAL	
	NUMBER	PER CENT	NUMBER	PER CENT	NUMBER	PER CENT	NUMBER	PER CENT	NUMBER	PER CENT
AMER. CIV.										
ART	1	9.1	1	9.1	1	9.1	8	72.7	11	100.0
BIOLOGY	1	3.3	2	6.7	6	20.0	21	70.0	30	100.0
BUS. ADMIN.	1	7.1	2	14.3	2	14.3	9	64.3	14	100.0
BUS. EDUC.	1	25.0	1	25.0			2	50.0	4	100.0
CHEMISTRY							2	100.0	2	100.0
ECONOMICS			1	10.0	1	10.0	8	80.0	10	100.0
ELEM. ED.	10	6.9	19	13.1	11	7.6	105	72.4	145	100.0
ENGLISH			7	30.4	6	26.1	10	43.5	23	100.0
FORESTRY							8	100.0	8	100.0
FRENCH							5	100.0	5	100.0
GEN. SCIENCE							3	100.0	3	100.0
GEOGRAPHY	1	16.7			2	33.3	3	50.0	6	100.0
GERMAN			1	33.3	1	33.3	1	33.4	3	100.0
HISTORY	1	7.1	1	7.1	2	14.3	10	71.5	14	100.0
HOME ECON.	2	11.8	1	5.9	2	11.8	12	70.5	17	100.0
MATHEMATICS	2	28.6	1	14.3			4	57.1	7	100.0
MED. TECH.			1	25.0			3	75.0	4	100.0
MUSIC	1	25.0			2	50.0	1	25.0	4	100.0
PHILOSOPHY							2	100.0	2	100.0
PHY. ED.					1	33.3	2	66.7	3	100.0
PHYSICS					1	50.0	1	50.0	2	100.0
POL. SCIENCE			2	33.3	2	33.3	2	33.4	6	100.0
PSYCHOLOGY	1	5.0	2	10.0	6	30.0	11	55.0	20	100.0
RES. MGM'T			1	4.8	2	9.5	18	85.7	21	100.0
SOC. SCIENCE	1	12.5	1	12.5	1	12.5	5	62.5	8	100.0
SOCIOLOGY	1	4.2	3	12.5	3	12.5	17	70.8	24	100.0
SPANISH					2	100.0			2	100.0
SPEECH & DRAMA			1	11.1	2	22.2	6	66.7	9	100.0
SPEECH PATH. & AUDIOLOGY	2	20.0	2	20.0	2	20.0	4	40.0	10	100.0
WILDLIFE			2	28.6	1	14.3	4	57.1	7	100.0
TOTALS	26	6.1	52	12.3	59	13.9	287	67.7	424	100.0

TABLE 10

NUMBER AND PER CENT OF YEARS INSTRUCTION FOR 1970 BACCALAUREATE GRADUATES BY MAJOR DEPARTMENT
TOTAL STUDENTS

DEPARTMENT	4 YEARS		4 YEARS + 1 SUMMER SES.		4 YEARS + 1 SEMESTER		OTHER		TOTAL	
	NUMBER	PER CENT	NUMBER	PER CENT	NUMBER	PER CENT	NUMBER	PER CENT	NUMBER	PER CENT
AMER. CIV.							1	100.0	1	100.0
ART	3	11.1	6	22.2	4	14.8	14	51.9	27	100.0
BIOLOGY	9	9.6	8	8.5	33	35.1	44	46.8	94	100.0
BUS. ADMIN.	17	32.7	13	25.0	8	15.4	14	26.9	52	100.0
BUS. ED.	6	35.3	8	47.1			3	17.6	17	100.0
CHEMISTRY	1	16.7	2	33.3			3	50.0	6	100.0
ECONOMICS	6	19.4	1	3.2	6	19.4	18	58.0	31	100.0
ELEM. ED.	28	12.8	45	20.6	18	8.2	128	58.4	219	100.0
ENGLISH	2	3.9	20	39.2	12	23.5	17	33.4	51	100.0
FORESTRY			8	36.4	1	4.5	13	59.1	22	100.0
FRENCH	1	16.7					5	83.3	6	100.0
GEN. SCIENCE	1	11.1			1	11.1	7	77.8	9	100.0
GEOGRAPHY	5	19.2	4	15.4	10	38.5	7	26.9	26	100.0
GERMAN			2	25.0	2	25.0	4	50.0	8	100.0
HISTORY	7	13.0	16	29.6	10	18.5	21	38.9	54	100.0
HOME ECON.	18	33.3	13	24.1	7	13.0	16	29.6	54	100.0
MATHEMATICS	16	38.1	7	16.7	10	23.8	9	21.4	42	100.0
MED. TECH.	1	16.7	1	16.7			4	66.6	6	100.0
MUSIC	5	23.8	4	19.0	9	42.9	3	14.3	21	100.0
PHILOSOPHY					1	25.0	3	75.0	4	100.0
PHY. ED.	2	15.4			4	30.8	7	53.8	13	100.0
PHYSICS					3	75.0	1	25.0	4	100.0
POL. SCIENCE	6	20.7	10	34.5	5	17.2	8	27.6	29	100.0
PSYCHOLOGY	5	11.9	6	14.3	11	26.2	20	47.6	42	100.0
RES. MGM'T			22	42.3	4	7.7	26	50.0	52	100.0
SOC. SCIENCE	5	21.7	5	21.7	3	13.1	10	43.5	23	100.0
SOCIOLOGY	11	20.0	9	16.4	9	16.4	26	47.2	55	100.0
SPANISH					3	100.0			3	100.0
SPEECH & DRAMA			3	16.7	2	11.1	13	72.2	18	100.0
SPEECH PATH. & AUDIOLOGY	11	33.3	7	21.2	6	18.2	9	27.3	33	100.0
WILDLIFE			11	61.1	1	5.6	6	33.3	18	100.0
TOTALS	166	16.0	231	22.2	183	17.6	460	44.2	1040	100.0

Years of matriculation for the regular graduates are shown in Table 11, and for the transfer graduates they are shown in Table 12. The earliest entrant for 1970 regular graduates was one who entered in 1930; the latest was in 1967. The great majority of regular 1970 graduates (93.2%) entered in 1965 or 1966. A few entered in January or June, but the great majority entered in September, even in recent years. Nearly 62 per cent graduated in June, and of the remainder, 25.8% graduated in January. The "mean years from matriculation to graduation", computed by subtracting the year of entry from 1972 and then averaging, was found to be 4.744 for regular graduates.

The range in year of matriculation for transfer graduates (shown in Table 12) was 1929 to 1967. Only 60 per cent of these graduates had entered college in 1965 and 1966. More than 17 per cent had entered in 1960 or earlier. Only about 47 per cent of these graduates obtained their degrees in June; the proportions of January and August graduates were almost identical.

In contrast to the student tenure of 4.744 years for regular graduates, the mean years from matriculation to graduation for transfer graduates of 1970 was 7.443.

TABLE 11
PERIOD FROM MATRICULATION TO GRADUATION
1970 GRADUATES: REGULAR STUDENTS

DATE ENTERED MONTH				YEAR	MONTH OF GRADUATION			ROW TOTALS	YEAR TOTALS
JAN-FEB	JUNE	SEPT-AUG	OTHER		JANUARY	JUNE	AUGUST		
		X		1930			1	1	1
		X		1936			1	1	1
		X		1944	1			1	1
	X			1948			1	1	2
		X					1	1	
		X		1952	1			1	1
		X		1954			1	1	1
		X		1956		1		1	1
		X		1960		1	1	2	2
X				1961	1			1	3
		X			1	1		2	
		X		1962	1	4	1	6	6
	X			1963	1			1	6
		X			2	2	1	5	
		X		1964	6	5	2	13	13
X				1965	1	1		2	206
	X				3	3	1	7	
		X			123	66	8	197	
X				1966	5	5	3	13	369
	X				3	8		11	
		X			10	283	52	345	
X				1967		1	1	2	3
		X					1	1	
TOTALS					159	381	76	616	616

Mean Years From Matriculation To Graduation: 4.74

TABLE 12

PERIOD FROM MATRICULATION TO GRADUATION
1970 GRADUATES: TRANSFER STUDENTS

DATE ENTERED MONTH JAN-FEB	JUNE	SEPT-AUG	OTHER	YEAR	MONTH OF GRADUATION JANUARY	JUNE	AUGUST	ROW TOTALS	YEAR TOTALS
		X		1929			1	1	1
		X		1931	1			1	1
		X		1936			1	1	1
		X		1937		1	1	2	2
		X		1938		2	1	3	3
		X		1939			2	2	2
		X		1940		1		1	1
		X		1941	1		1	2	2
		X		1944			1	1	1
		X		1945		1	2	3	3
		X		1946		1	1	2	2
		X		1947	1		3	4	4
		X		1948			1	1	1
		X		1949	1		1	2	2
		X		1950	2	1		3	3
		X		1951		2	1	3	3
		X		1952			1	1	1
		X		1953			1	1	1
		X		1954		2		2	2
X				1955	1			1	5
	X				1			1	
		X			2	1		3	
	X			1956		1		1	4
		X			1		1	2	
			4			1		1	
		X		1957	1	2		3	3
		X		1958		1	5	6	6
		X		1959		5	1	6	6
	X			1960	1			1	13
		X			4	4	4	12	
X				1961	1		1	2	11
	X				1			1	
		X			2	2	4	8	
X				1962		1		1	17
	X					1		1	
		X			2	5	8	15	
	X			1963	1	1		2	23
		X			3	9	9	21	
X				1964		1		1	41
	X				2		1	3	
		X			13	10	14	37	
X				1965		3		3	130
	X				6	3		9	
		X			56	52	10	118	
X				1966	2	3	1	6	124
	X					4	1	5	
		X			6	76	30	112	
			4			1		1	
	X			1967			1	1	5
		X			1	1	2	4	
TOTALS					113	199	112	424	424

Mean Years From Matriculation To Graduation: 7.44

1971 GRADUATES

Complete records were found for 649 regular students and 460 transfer students who graduated in 1971, a total of 1109 graduates. This number excludes 17 graduates whose transfer data are not available. The mean hours of instruction for regular graduates was 143.00, while for transfer graduates it was 169.09. For regular and transfer students combined the mean was 153.81 hours of instruction. Table 13 shows mean credit hours of instruction for both regular and transfer graduates and the combined group by department of first major. Among regular graduates, the smallest departmental means include those for philosophy, physical education, political science, German, home economics, business education, and wildlife. Art, music, physics, and Spanish graduates averaged highest. Among transfer graduates, home economics majors averaged fewer hours than those of any other department. The highest means included those for elementary education, speech & drama, and social science. Overall, elementary education majors on the average carried the greatest number of hours of instruction (174.24), while home economics and physical education majors averaged the fewest, the bottom of the range being 140.64 credit hours of instruction for physical education graduates.

TABLE 13
MEAN NUMBER OF HOURS INSTRUCTION, 1971 BACCALAUREATE GRADUATES
BY DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENT	REGULAR STUDENTS			TRANSFER STUDENTS			ALL STUDENTS		
	N	MEAN HOURS	S. E.	N	MEAN HOURS	S. E.	N	MEAN HOURS	S. E.
AMER. CIVILIZATION				1	131.00		1	131.00	
ART	18	151.56	3.20	13	165.15	7.19	31	157.26	3.68
BIOLOGY	66	144.36	2.08	26	160.54	4.11	92	148.93	2.03
BUS. ADMINISTRATION	30	142.67	2.87	22	154.64	4.53	52	147.73	2.64
BUS. EDUCATION	12	138.67	3.17	6	160.67	5.88	18	146.00	3.75
CHEMISTRY	5	139.20	9.33	1	184.00		6	146.67	10.67
ECONOMICS	9	143.11	3.87	5	157.60	11.84	14	148.29	5.00
ELEM. EDUCATION	79	140.25	2.04	136	193.99	4.73	215	174.24	3.55
ENGLISH	43	143.07	2.08	27	156.22	2.65	70	148.14	1.80
FORESTRY	17	141.18	2.99	15	164.73	7.38	32	152.22	4.29
FRENCH				2	154.00	6.00	2	154.00	6.00
GENERAL SCIENCE	7	139.43	2.38	4	163.00	7.19	11	148.00	4.54
GEOGRAPHY	26	144.31	2.24	9	158.22	3.95	35	147.89	2.18
GERMAN	4	138.00	7.57	2	150.00	2.00	6	142.00	5.44
HISTORY	54	146.81	2.39	19	167.58	7.75	73	152.22	2.86
HOME ECONOMICS	31	138.84	2.53	28	144.82	2.73	59	141.68	1.88
MATHEMATICS	24	142.67	3.84	11	154.09	7.09	35	146.26	3.51
MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY	1	112.00		5	161.60	12.75	6	153.33	13.29
MUSIC	10	151.20	7.20	8	161.00	9.00	18	155.56	5.61
PHILOSOPHY	3	136.00		3	165.33	5.33	6	150.67	6.98
PHYSICAL EDUC.	8	137.00	2.80	3	150.33	6.12	11	140.64	3.09
PHYSICS	4	156.00	12.44	1	184.00		5	161.60	11.14
POLITICAL SCIENCE	20	136.00	2.39	9	159.67	5.25	29	143.34	3.07
PSYCHOLOGY	33	147.39	3.60	17	158.12	7.15	50	151.04	3.43
RESOURCE MGM'T	32	145.50	1.85	19	164.58	4.70	51	152.61	2.45
SOCIAL SCIENCE	15	149.33	4.32	12	173.42	9.60	27	160.04	5.33
SOCIOLOGY	44	139.64	1.88	24	153.83	3.03	68	144.65	1.81
SPANISH	2	152.00	8.00	6	157.33	11.99	8	156.00	8.94
SPEECH & DRAMA	16	147.50	4.90	5	179.20	20.02	21	155.05	6.47
SPEECH PATH. & AUD.	8	143.00	8.48	9	151.00	8.23	17	147.24	5.81
WILDLIFE	28	138.29	1.00	12	153.25	5.55	40	142.78	2.07
TOTALS	649	143.00	0.62	460	169.06	1.82	1109	153.81	0.92

Tables 14, 15, and 16 show by department of first major the number and proportion of 1971 graduates who completed study in eight semesters, eight semesters and a summer session, nine semesters, or some other study period, usually greater than nine semesters. Table 14 gives the distribution for regular graduates and Table 15 refers to transfers, while Table 16 summarizes data for all students.

From Table 14 we can see that 23.7% of all regular graduates required just eight semesters to complete their work. The proportions in this category ranged from a high of 55% for political science majors to a low of 16.7% for history majors, excluding departments with few graduates.

The modal study period was four years and a summer session, which includes 28.4% of all regular students. Predominant here are three departments in the College of Natural Resources, for which most graduates completed work in eight semesters and a summer session. In contrast, only one of fifteen social science graduates is included in this category.

The "other" category in Table 14 includes 26.3% of all cases. Since nearly all cases involved were students requiring more than nine semesters (or equivalent) of study, we can say that roughly 25% of regular 1971 graduates took more than nine semesters to complete their work.

In great contrast are the data of Table 15, where we see that only 3.3% of the 1971 transfer graduates completed their work in four years or eight semesters. Also, only 12.8% completed work in four years and a summer session, while 16.7% completed their work in nine semesters. Thus 67.2% or more than two-thirds are included in the "other" category. About two-thirds of the transfer graduates were enrolled for more than nine semesters or equivalent. In a few departments all such graduates fell in the "other" category, which also included 102 of 136 elementary education graduates. The proportion was lowest for home economics graduates (32.2%) and speech pathology and audiology graduates (33.3%).

When all 1971 graduates are combined as in Table 16, the graduates with majors in art, resource management, social science, and elementary education have some of the greatest proportions in the "other" category, excluding departments with few graduates. Majors in wildlife, speech pathology & audiology, and home economics were relatively fewer in the "more-than-nine-semester" category.

TABLE 14
NUMBER AND PER CENT OF YEARS INSTRUCTION FOR 1971 BACCALAUREATE GRADUATES BY MAJOR DEPARTMENT

REGULAR STUDENTS

DEPARTMENT	4 YEARS		4 YEARS + 1 SUMMER SES.		4 YEARS + 1 SEMESTER		OTHER		TOTAL	
	NUMBER	PER CENT	NUMBER	PER CENT	NUMBER	PER CENT	NUMBER	PER CENT	NUMBER	PER CENT
AMER. CIV.										
ART			1	5.6	9	50.0	8	44.4	18	100.0
BIOLOGY	18	27.3	8	12.1	24	36.4	16	24.2	66	100.0
BUS. ADMIN.	12	40.0	5	16.7	2	6.7	11	36.6	30	100.0
BUS. EDUC.	5	41.7	1	8.3	4	33.3	2	16.7	12	100.0
CHEMISTRY	3	60.0	1	20.0			1	20.0	5	100.0
ECONOMICS	2	22.2	1	11.1	4	44.5	2	22.2	9	100.0
ELEM. ED.	24	30.4	25	31.6	17	21.5	13	16.5	79	100.0
ENGLISH	10	23.3	11	25.5	10	23.3	12	27.9	43	100.0
FORESTRY			14	82.4			3	17.6	17	100.0
FRENCH										
GEN. SCIENCE	1	14.3	2	28.6	4	57.1			7	100.0
GEOGRAPHY	4	15.4	5	19.2	10	38.5	7	26.9	26	100.0
GERMAN	2	50.0	1	25.0			1	25.0	4	100.0
HISTORY	9	16.7	16	29.6	11	20.4	18	33.3	54	100.0
HOME ECON.	9	29.0	12	38.7	4	12.9	6	19.4	31	100.0
MATHEMATICS	10	41.6	4	16.7	3	12.5	7	29.2	24	100.0
MED. TECH.							1	100.0	1	100.0
MUSIC	1	10.0	3	30.0	2	20.0	4	40.0	10	100.0
PHILOSOPHY			3	100.0					3	100.0
PHY. EDUC.	2	25.0	4	50.0	1	12.5	1	12.5	8	100.0
PHYSICS	1	25.0			1	25.0	2	50.0	4	100.0
POL. SCIENCE	11	55.0	3	15.0	2	10.0	4	20.0	20	100.0
PSYCHOLOGY	7	21.2	7	21.2	5	15.2	14	42.4	33	100.0
RES. MGM'T			15	46.9	2	6.2	15	46.9	32	100.0
SOC. SCIENCE	3	20.0	1	6.7	5	33.3	6	40.0	15	100.0
SOCIOLOGY	14	31.8	13	29.5	9	20.5	8	18.2	44	100.0
SPANISH					1	50.0	1	50.0	2	100.0
SPEECH & DRAMA	3	18.8	3	18.8	6	37.4	4	25.0	16	100.0
SPEECH PATH. & AUDIOLOGY	3	37.5	2	25.0	2	25.0	1	12.5	8	100.0
WILDLIFE			23	82.2	2	7.1	3	10.7	28	100.0
TOTALS	154	23.7	184	28.4	140	21.6	171	26.3	649	100.0

TABLE 15
NUMBER AND PER CENT OF YEARS INSTRUCTION FOR 1971 BACCALAUREATE GRADUATES BY MAJOR DEPARTMENT

TRANSFER STUDENTS

DEPARTMENT	4 YEARS		4 YEARS + 1 SUMMER SES.		4 YEARS + 1 SEMESTER		OTHER		TOTAL	
	NUMBER	PER CENT	NUMBER	PER CENT	NUMBER	PER CENT	NUMBER	PER CENT	NUMBER	PER CENT
AMER. CIV.							1	100.0	1	100.0
ART					2	15.4	11	84.6	13	100.0
BIOLOGY			4	15.4	4	15.4	18	69.2	26	100.0
BUS. ADMIN.	1	4.6	5	22.7	5	22.7	11	50.0	22	100.0
BUS. EDUC.					1	16.7	5	83.3	6	100.0
CHEMISTRY							1	100.0	1	100.0
ECONOMICS			2	40.0			3	60.0	5	100.0
ELEM. ED.	5	3.7	10	7.3	19	14.0	102	75.0	136	100.0
ENGLISH	1	3.7	2	7.4	5	18.5	19	70.4	27	100.0
FORESTRY			2	13.3			13	86.7	15	100.0
FRENCH							2	100.0	2	100.0
GEN. SCIENCE					1	25.0	3	75.0	4	100.0
GEOGRAPHY					2	22.2	7	77.8	9	100.0
GERMAN							2	100.0	2	100.0
HISTORY	1	5.3	3	15.8	3	15.8	12	63.1	19	100.0
HOME ECON.	3	10.7	10	35.7	6	21.4	9	32.2	28	100.0
MATHEMATICS	1	9.1	1	9.1	2	18.2	7	63.6	11	100.0
MED. TECH.					1	20.0	4	80.0	5	100.0
MUSIC			2	25.0	2	25.0	4	50.0	8	100.0
PHILOSOPHY							3	100.0	3	100.0
PHY. EDUC.							3	100.0	3	100.0
PHYSICS							1	100.0	1	100.0
POL. SCIENCE					3	33.3	6	66.7	9	100.0
PSYCHOLOGY			4	23.5	4	23.5	9	53.0	17	100.0
RES. MGM'T			1	5.3	4	21.0	14	73.7	19	100.0
SOC. SCIENCE			3	25.0			9	75.0	12	100.0
SOCIOLOGY			5	20.8	5	20.8	14	58.4	24	100.0
SPANISH			1	16.7	2	33.3	3	50.0	6	100.0
SPEECH & DRAMA					1	20.0	4	80.0	5	100.0
SPEECH PATH. & AUDIOLOGY	2	22.3	1	11.1	3	33.3	3	33.3	9	100.0
WILDLIFE	1	8.3	3	25.0	2	16.7	6	50.0	12	100.0
TOTALS	15	3.3	59	12.8	77	16.7	309	67.2	460	100.0

TABLE 16
NUMBER AND PER CENT OF YEARS INSTRUCTION FOR 1971 BACCALAUREATE GRADUATES BY MAJOR DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENT	TOTAL STUDENTS									
	4 YEARS		4 YEARS + 1 SUMMER SES.		4 YEARS + 1 SEMESTER		OTHER		TOTAL	
	NUMBER	PER CENT	NUMBER	PER CENT	NUMBER	PER CENT	NUMBER	PER CENT	NUMBER	PER CENT
AMER. CIV.							1	100.0	1	100.0
ART			1	3.2	11	35.5	19	61.3	31	100.0
BIOLOGY	18	19.6	12	13.0	28	30.4	34	37.0	92	100.0
BUS. ADMIN.	13	25.0	10	19.2	7	13.5	22	42.3	52	100.0
BUS. EDUC.	5	27.8	1	5.5	5	27.8	7	38.9	18	100.0
CHEMISTRY	3	50.0	1	16.7			2	33.3	6	100.0
ECONOMICS	2	14.3	3	21.4	4	28.6	5	35.7	14	100.0
ELEM. ED.	29	13.5	35	16.3	36	16.7	115	53.5	215	100.0
ENGLISH	11	15.7	13	18.6	15	21.4	31	44.3	70	100.0
FORESTRY			16	50.0			16	50.0	32	100.0
FRENCH							2	100.0	2	100.0
GEN. SCIENCE	1	9.1	2	18.2	5	45.4	3	27.3	11	100.0
GEOGRAPHY	4	11.4	5	14.3	12	34.3	14	40.0	35	100.0
GERMAN	2	33.3	1	16.7			3	50.0	6	100.0
HISTORY	10	13.7	19	26.0	14	19.2	30	41.1	73	100.0
HOME ECON.	12	20.3	22	37.3	10	17.0	15	25.4	59	100.0
MATHEMATICS	11	31.4	5	14.3	5	14.3	14	40.0	35	100.0
MED. TECH.					1	16.7	5	83.3	6	100.0
MUSIC	1	5.6	5	27.8	4	22.2	8	44.4	18	100.0
PHILOSOPHY			3	50.0			3	50.0	6	100.0
PHY. EDUC.	2	18.1	4	36.4	1	9.1	4	36.4	11	100.0
PHYSICS	1	20.0			1	20.0	3	60.0	5	100.0
POL. SCIENCE	11	37.9	3	10.4	5	17.2	10	34.5	29	100.0
PSYCHOLOGY	7	14.0	11	22.0	9	18.0	23	46.0	50	100.0
RES. MGM'T			16	31.4	6	11.8	29	56.8	51	100.0
SOC. SCIENCE	3	11.1	4	14.8	5	18.5	15	55.6	27	100.0
SOCIOLOGY	14	20.6	18	26.5	14	20.6	22	32.3	68	100.0
SPANISH			1	12.5	3	37.5	4	50.0	8	100.0
SPEECH & DRAMA	3	14.3	3	14.3	7	33.3	8	38.1	21	100.0
SPEECH PATH. & AUDIOLOGY	5	29.4	3	17.7	5	29.4	4	23.5	17	100.0
WILDLIFE	1	2.5	26	65.0	4	10.0	9	22.5	40	100.0
TOTALS	169	15.2	243	21.9	217	19.6	480	43.3	1109	100.0

Table 17 shows month of graduation by month and year of entrance for 1971 regular graduates. Again we see that most graduates had entered in September. June continues to be the principal graduation period, since 397 of the 649 regular graduates or 61% received their degrees in June. An exception is the 1966 January entrants, most of whom entered in the fall of 1966 and graduated in January, 1971, nine semesters later.

The 1966 and 1967 entrants, totaling 584, constitute 90.0% of all entrants among regular students. Only five of these graduates or less than 1% entered before 1961, although the range in year of entrance was 1939 to 1968. The mean number of years from matriculation to graduation for the 1971 regular graduates was 4.68.

TABLE 17
PERIOD FROM MATRICULATION TO GRADUATION
1971 GRADUATES: REGULAR STUDENTS

DATE ENTERED MONTH JAN-FEB	JUNE	SEPT-AUG	OTHER	YEAR	MONTH OF GRADUATION JANUARY	JUNE	AUGUST	ROW TOTALS	YEAR TOTALS
		X		1939	1			1	1
		X		1949		1		1	1
		X		1955	1			1	1
		X		1959	1			1	1
		X		1960		1		1	1
X				1961	1			1	2
		X				1		1	
	X			1962	1			1	6
		X			3	2		5	
		X		1963	4	3	1	8	8
X				1964	1			1	15
		X			5	7	2	14	
X				1965			1	1	28
	X				2	1		3	
		X			12	8	4	24	
X				1966	2	2	1	5	196
	X				3	2	3	8	
		X			126	44	13	183	
X				1967	5	5		10	388
	X				3	8	1	12	
		X			5	312	49	366	
X				1968			1	1	1
TOTALS					176	397	76	649	649

Mean Years From Matriculation To Graduation: 4.68

Again the transfer graduates showed a wide range in year of entrance, as evidenced in Table 18 for 1971 graduates. The range in year of matriculation is 1925 to 1968, with nearly 14% (64 of the 460 graduates) entering before 1961. There were 235 June graduates, or 51% of the total. The entrance of these transfer graduates was not concentrated as much in a two year period as was the case for regular graduates, since 266 or 57.8% entered in 1966 and 1967. Of the 114 who entered in September, 1966, some 53 graduated in January, 52 graduated in June, and 9 graduated in August of 1971.

The mean number of years from matriculation to graduation for 1971 transfer graduates was 7.61. The computation was made by subtracting the year of matriculation from 1971 for each student, and averaging the numbers thus obtained.

TABLE 18
PERIOD FROM MATRICULATION TO GRADUATION
1971 GRADUATES: TRANSFER STUDENTS

DATE ENTERED					MONTH OF GRADUATION				
MONTH				YEAR				ROW TOTALS	YEAR TOTALS
JAN-FEB	JUNE	SEPT-AUG	OTHER		JANUARY	JUNE	AUGUST		
		X		1925	1			1	1
			7	1930		1		1	1
		X		1931	1			1	1
		X		1932		1		1	1
		X		1933	1			1	1
		X		1935			1	1	1
		X		1936			1	1	1
		X		1937			3	3	3
		X		1938	1	1	2	4	4
		X		1939		1		1	1
		X		1940			1	1	1
X				1942			1	1	2
		X					1	1	
		X		1943	1			1	1
		X		1944			1	1	1
		X		1945	1	1		2	2
		X		1946		2	1	3	3
		X		1947			1	1	1
		X		1948		1		1	1
		X		1949	1		1	2	3
			3				1	1	
		X		1950			1	1	1
		X		1951			1	1	1
		X		1952			1	1	1
	X			1953		1		1	2
		X					1	1	
		X		1954		1	1	2	2
		X		1955	1	1	2	4	4
X				1956			1	1	3
		X					2	2	
		X		1957		2	2	4	4
		X		1958		1	1	2	2
		X		1959	2	4		6	6
X				1960	1			1	8
		X			1	2	4	7	
		X		1961	4	4	1	9	9
X				1962		3	1	4	10
		X			2	2	2	6	
X				1963			1	1	25
	X				1		1	2	
		X			3	11	8	22	
X				1964		2		2	23
	X						1	1	
		X			5	5	10	20	
X				1965	1	3	1	5	59
	X				1	1	2	4	
		X			20	18	12	50	
X				1966	1	2		3	124
	X				4	1	1	6	
		X			53	52	9	114	
			10		1			1	

DATE ENTERED MONTH JAN-FEB	JUNE	SEPT-AUG	OTHER	YEAR	MONTH OF GRADUATION JANUARY	JUNE	AUGUST	ROW TOTALS	YEAR TOTALS
X				1967	2	3		5	142
	X				2	3	2	7	
		X			4	103	23	130	
X				1968		2		2	4
		X			1		1	2	
TOTALS					117	235	108	460	460

Mean Years From Matriculation To Graduation: 7.61

SUMMARY

A careful study was made of the credit transcripts of all UW-SP bachelor's graduates of 1969, 1970, and 1971 in order to learn how long they had been in school, both in calendar years and in credits and terms enrolled before graduating. Complete records were found for more than 99% of these graduates, although a few transfers who were graduates had some data missing concerning work at the institution of original matriculation. Data were analyzed separately for regular students (those who entered college at Stevens Point and took all of their study here) and transfer students (those who took part of their work at some other institution but graduated at Stevens Point). Graduates were separated by year of graduation in the analysis.

One analysis was made by "credit hours enrolled" or "weeks or credit hours of instruction". A semester is considered to have 16 weeks of instruction, and a summer session 8 weeks; and for correspondence courses the number of weeks of instruction was made to correspond to the number of credit hours obtained. While a few students may have attended six weeks, rather than eight weeks, summer sessions, their numbers will be comparatively few. The overall mean hours of instruction for all regular and transfer students by year of graduation are shown in the following table:

TABLE 19

MEAN CREDIT HOURS TENURE

YEAR OF GRADUATION	1969	1970	1971
Regular Graduates	141.71	142.81	143.00
Transfer Graduates	168.79	169.59	169.06
All Graduates	152.82	153.73	153.81

It is immediately apparent that the average student tenures for students of different years are remarkably similar, with a slight increase in average student tenure each year. Since "mean hours of instruction" for nine semesters is 144, the regular graduates had an average tenure of slightly less than nine semesters. Transfer graduates averaged about 169, or slightly more than ten semesters plus one summer session. The average for all students was between nine and ten semesters.

When the averages are analyzed by department, tenures are consistently shorter than the overall mean for graduates of such departments as business education, chemistry, foreign languages, home economics, philosophy, and wildlife. Majors who took much longer than average to graduate, as a rule, were those in art, speech & drama, elementary education, and general science. Where numbers of graduates are small, the means tend to vary from year to year.

The following table contrasts the tenures of students of two majors representing extremes: home economics and elementary education.

TABLE 20

MEAN CREDIT HOURS TENURE

YEAR OF GRADUATION	1969	1970	1971
Home Economics: Regular	134.85	137.08	138.84
Transfer	151.00	155.24	144.82
Elementary Education: Regular	142.81	146.70	140.29
Transfer	182.23	187.47	193.99
All Elementary Education	167.80	173.69	174.24
All Home Economics	139.55	142.80	141.68

The above table reveals some tendency for tenure of elementary education to increase. The reader can make similar departmental comparisons with the help of Tables 1, 7, and 13.

When comparisons are made over the three year period of the proportion completing college work during specified time periods, the trends are revealed as in the following table:

TABLE 21

PER CENT DISTRIBUTION OF TENURE BY YEAR

YEAR OF GRADUATION		1969	1970	1971
Regular Graduates				
4 Years		25.4	22.7	23.7
4 Years, 1 Summer Session		31.7	29.1	28.4
4 Years, 1 Semester		17.2	20.1	21.6
Other		25.7	28.1	26.3
	TOTALS	100.0	100.0	100.0
Transfer Graduates				
4 Years		6.3	6.1	3.3
4 Years, 1 Summer Session		10.8	12.3	12.8
4 Years, 1 Semester		13.7	13.9	16.7
Other		69.2	67.7	67.2
	TOTALS	100.0	100.0	100.0
All Graduates				
4 Years		12.6	16.0	15.2
4 Years, 1 Summer Session		19.1	22.2	21.9
4 Years, 1 Semester		10.4	17.6	19.6
Other		57.9	44.2	43.3
	TOTALS	100.0	100.0	100.0

Some trends are discernable in the table displayed above. Among regular graduates the most frequent tenure is four years (eight semesters) and one summer session, but the trend in proportion is gradually downward. The most significant upward trend is in the proportion whose tenure was nine semesters. This trend is true both for regular and transfer graduates. About two-thirds of the transfer graduates have a tenure of more than nine semesters.

When the tenures of graduates are analyzed in terms of number of years from matriculation to graduation, the difference in tenures for regular and transfer graduates is most noticeable. Here the year of entrance for each student is subtracted from the year of graduation to produce a rough measure of the time lapse from matriculation to graduation. The exact number of months was not computed. The following table summarizes the mean number of years from matriculation to graduation by year of graduation.

TABLE 22

MEANS YEARS FROM MATRICULATION TO GRADUATION

YEAR OF GRADUATION	1969	1970	1971
Regular Graduates	4.89	4.74	4.68
Transfer Graduates	7.60	7.44	7.61
All Graduates	6.00	5.84	5.90

Because of the high average "tenure" for transfer students, the average time lapse for all graduates from matriculation to graduation is nearly six years. For regular students the mean is less than five years with the trend slightly downward. Thus it appears that the trend is toward slightly more time in college, but regular students who graduate are taking their study within a slightly more concentrated space of time - perhaps staying out fewer semesters and enrolling in more summer sessions. The transfer students graduate, on the average, about 7.5 years from time of matriculation. No trend in time lapse is apparent over the three year period for these graduates.

Another analysis concerns the proportion of regular and transfer students who graduate in January, May or June, and August. The following table was prepared to observe trends in proportions graduating in January, June, and August.

TABLE 23

PER CENT DISTRIBUTION BY MONTH OF GRADUATION

YEAR OF GRADUATION		1969	1970	1971
Regular Graduates:	January	22.2%	25.8%	27.1%
	June	61.0	61.9	61.2
	August	16.8	12.3	11.7
	TOTALS	100.0	100.0	100.0
Transfer Graduates:	January	30.2	26.7	25.4
	June	40.7	46.9	51.1
	August	29.1	26.4	23.5
	TOTALS	100.0	100.0	100.0

Examination of Table 23 shows that over the three years, the proportion of January graduates is increasing and the proportion of June graduates is about constant, while the proportion of August graduates is decreasing among regular graduates. Among transfer graduates, the proportion of January and August graduates is decreasing, while the proportion of June graduates has increased sharply.

A final analysis concerns the proportion who are regular and transfer graduates. Table 24 shows these proportions.

TABLE 24

PER CENT DISTRIBUTION: REGULAR AND TRANSFER GRADUATES

YEAR OF GRADUATION	1969	1970	1971
Regular Graduates	59.0%	59.2%	58.5%
Transfer Graduates	41.0	40.8	41.5

Table 24 reveals that the proportion of graduates who were regular and transfer students remained quite constant for the years 1969, 1970, and 1971. There was a slight increase in the proportion who were transfer graduates.

CONCLUSIONS

On the basis of the evidence presented, it appears that eight semesters is far from typical tenure for those who obtain bachelor's degrees at UW-SP. The average is between the equivalents of nine and ten semesters. For students who obtained all of their credits at Stevens Point, the average is slightly less than nine semesters. For transfer students the mean is more than ten and one-half semesters.

There are significant differences in the tenures of those who graduated with various majors. No overall attempt is made to account for these differences. But it may be pointed out that certain vocation - oriented majors completed their work in relatively shorter time periods. An exception is the graduates in elementary education who transferred to Stevens Point, many of whom are teaching. It appears that some of these teachers attended many summer sessions before graduating. Also, some transfer credits may not apply to a major in the institution to which one transfers. The frequent shifts from one major to another, and the tendency to take lighter study loads while working part time may explain why most students take more than the expected number of school terms to achieve the bachelor's degree.